

WHITE FARM EQUIPMENT

(Charles City, Iowa)

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The site is located near Charles City, Iowa and occupies 14.4-acres in the W 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4 of Section 36, T96N, R16W. It is owned by the city Charles City. The site was entered on the Registry in September 1989. The EPA placed the site on the National Priorities List (NPL) in August 1990.

The site is an old sand and gravel pit occupying low, marshy land that drains into wetlands to the northwest and south. From 1971 to 1985 White Farm Equipment Company disposed of foundry sand, bag house dust, and other industrial wastes at the site. One estimate sets the total amount of wastes at about 110,000 tons.

SITE CLASSIFICATION

The site has been classified "d" in accordance with 455B.427.3, since the completion of closure activities in 1995.

TYPE AND QUANTITY OF HAZARDOUS WASTE

Total quantity of hazardous materials is unknown. Contaminants of concern included total metals (i.e., arsenic, barium, chromium, lead, nickel, and zinc) in groundwater, on-site soils and sediments. Benzene was also detected in groundwater.

SUMMARY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS

The EPA concluded metal contaminants were migrating from the site into the alluvial groundwater and into the site's surface water discharge. Contaminated surface water flows through wetlands to the south and northwest of the site and into the Cedar River. The river is a recreational resource to the area, where people canoe, boat, water-ski, and fish. The nearest private residence with a water well is located approximately 200 feet east of the site. Charles City operates two municipal wells located approximately 1000 feet southeast of the site. Both wells are finished in the Cedar Valley aquifer.

STATUS OF ASSESSMENT, MONITORING OR REMEDIAL ACTIONS

The EPA is the lead agency at the site. White Farm installed three ground water monitoring wells in 1985 that have been periodically sampled since 1985. The EPA performed a site investigation in 1986.

A Consent Decree was entered in court on September 18, 1992. The required remedial action included the following:

- Install a fence around the site.
- Place a cover on the landfill.
- Conduct long-term monitoring and maintenance.
- Place a deed restriction on the site to restrict use of the property and prohibit use of contaminated groundwater.

With the exception of long-term monitoring, the remedial actions listed above were completed as of September 1995. Groundwater monitoring conducted in accordance with the consent decree has not found evidence of contamination. Groundwater monitoring will be conducted at five-year intervals. A walking inspection of the landfill is required twice a year and corrective action taken if needed. Superfund 5-year reviews have been conducted in 1999 and 2004, both of which have found the site to be protective of human health and the environment. The next 5-year review is scheduled for 2009.